TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST TO L.D. 479

"An Act To Allow Hunting on Sunday with the Landowner's Written Consent"

SPONSORED BY: Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator WILLETTE of Aroostook and Representatives:

BICKFORD of Auburn, CRAFTS of Lisbon, LONG of Sherman,

SHAW of Standish, STETKIS of Canaan, TURNER of

Burlington, WOOD of Sabattus, Senator: CUSHING of

Penobscot.

DATE OF HEARING: April 7, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Resource Management Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, neither for nor against **L.D. 479**.

This bill allows a person to possess hunting equipment on Sunday on a landowner's property if the person possessing the equipment has the landowner's written consent to hunt on that property. The bill also allows hunting on a landowner's property on Sunday with the landowner's written consent.

The Administration does understand that Sunday hunting could provide potential economic growth and additional opportunity to hunters. At the same time, we recognize that landowners prefer to have Sunday as a day that they can enjoy their land and allow other stewards opportunity to recreate without hunting related concerns.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.